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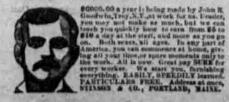
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DOROTHY'S CHRISTMAS.

A TALE OF THE FIRST RECOGNITION OF THE DAY IN CONNECTICUT COLONY.



HEAVY snow bad fallen in the night, so that upon the morning of the 25th of December. 662, the broad ford town in the Connecticut colony, was hidden by it, and as far as the eye could see the thick blanket

n except by trees man of authority, stood at the window of his kitchen on that morning, looking through the little panes of wrinkled glass, that he might discover whether the storm

Although a few flakes fluttered in the air, yet they began to glisten as the rays of the sun that were breaking through the clouds fell upon them, and when Abner perceived that the day would soon be fine

be called, saying, "Samuel! Samuel! Hear A sinewy young man, of rosy cheeks, and eyes that were bright because of health and exercise, put a huge log upon the fire-

place, and having brushed the snow from his arms, went to Abner that he might receive his master's commands. "The magistrate will come by noon,

think, for the storm is over. Samuel, you must break a way through the snow upon the highway at once. Take the stub horned oxen, for the steers are not yet heavy enough for such a snow as this. Having received this command, Samuel

put on a fur cap and muffler, and with heavy mittens on his hands went away. "Surely the magistrate will not come today," said a gentle woman, with soft spoken voice. "It is fifteen miles to New Haven when the roads are good, but with this snow on them it will be as good as

twice as far."
"Will not come, mother, did you say? Before the sun was up the magistrate was on his way, I trow." As he spoke, Abner, spying something

that gave him interest, looked intently across the common. At last he said: 'Came bare, mother, and tell me if that is not the maid Dorothy that I see yonder in the doorway of Governor Leete's store." The wife went to the window, and the sight that she saw caused her to be silent, longing to see more. Across the common

200 yards away, stood the store where the governor of the colony, Mr. Leete, had his business. The wind had drawn the snow against one side of it so high that, with the overhanging fringe from the roof, there was formed a bank of white, broken in two places by the faint outlines of the windows. From the door, on another side, there was thrust a heavily hooded head that seemed to be slyly looking each way as if fearful of discovery. At one moment this head was thrust out, and then for an instant was withdrawn to be again put out

a little farther.
At last the door was opened wide and there stepped out into the drift the figure of a woman. She was well wrapped and

she walked with ease.
"That is Dorothy," said Mother Alling. "It is a strange performance" said Abner. "Why does she come so slyly from the governor's store at this early hour when the men have not yet all gone out to

break the roads?" "She has a bundle under her cloak. knew that Dorothy was a maid disposed to be fond of frivolous things, but I did not think that she was sly," said the mother.
"To be sly means deceit; that is some-thing that must be punished. Ab, there is Samuel with the oxen. He breaks the path well. But now he sees Dorothy, and will, I trow, stop and speak to her, for I have surmised, mother, that he likes that

maid too well." "He does, husband." "So long as he is my apprentice at the forge and anvil he shall woo no maid, least of all this orphan, who, I greatly fear, with her soft ways, does cause our governor to relax his duty at times. He even permitted her to wear a brooch upon the Lord's day. We must discipline the maid today. day. We must discipune the magis

trate. I lie 1.0t; I will. See, Samuel is speaking with her."

The girl had gone through the snow until she was near the meeting house, some sixty yards away from the store, and there the young man, Samuel, met her. He had seen her as she came from the store, and although her head was well booded, yet the young man knew her as well as if he saw her eyes, that always greeted him, and her lips, that always bestowed upon him a smile. He turned the oxen, and with much

goading forced them to break a path from the governor's house, where the girl lived, to the place where he met her. Then he said to her:
"Why, Master Samuel?"

"Why? You know well why. You know what is to happen the day I am my master, and so sweet do you appear this norning, my Dorothy, that I wish it was today, for I have your promise to wed me on that day. Now tell me, how is it that you are out so early, and what is under your cloak ?"

"I will answer neither of your questions, Master Samuel. Are you not content to have me here? Come, put me on the sledge, for I must be back to Mr. Leete's at once. The young man put his strong arms

gently about her and lifted her to the sledge, where she stamped the snow from her feet, and then, with an arm thrown around a stake, she held securely on, while Samuel started the oxen away. Then he came and walked by her side. "Why did you peek so curiously from

the door a moment ago?" he asked. She knew that he was half jesting, half curious. She would not answer him, but she said: "Oh, Samuel, you made me for get my purpose. I wish you a merry Christmas, sir,

He looked at her perplexed, wondering what she meant, for he had never heard these words before, and he knew that no one in the town had ever repeated them. "What do you mean by that? What thing is this you wish me-a merry Christmas? What is that?"

"It is Christmas day, Samuel," said she

"I do not comprehend. It is Wednesday."
"This day it was that Christ was born, and in the countries across the sea it is the habit of the people to bring it to mind by saying as they meet, 'I wish you a merry Christmas.

"Dorothy, you perplex me. Who told "Ah! a heavenly minded man did tell me-oh, what have I said! Pay no heed to

ny chattering, Samuel." She put her hand pleadingly upon his. He perceived that she was very thoughtful, and there was self reproach in her tones as she said, "I cannot tell you now; I will some day, Samuel."

He made no answer, for he was perplexed. They had now come abreast the gate of the governor's house. He lifted her from the sledge and let her gently down

upon the door step.

An hour after Samuel returned to his home, having broken his share of paths. He put on his leather apron, rolled his sleeve over his mighty arm and blew a fire at the forge, and a moment later the music of the anvil revealed his energy.



SAMUEL AND DOROTHY. Deacon Abner went to him at once and reproved him. "You spoke too long with the maid, Samuel." I bade you go and break paths, not to chatter with a frivo-

lous young woman.'

"The paths are broken. "What did you gad with the maid about? Tell me. Did she tell you why she went out into the snow so early?" "She did not. I asked her, but she

would not tell. "Oh, there is some mystery. The maid is deceitful." "Nay, master Dorothy is not deceitful.

A lie was never on her line."
"I will accuse her before the magistrate, and when the governor returns home I will parrate this thing she has done "There is no evil, I am sure; but there is some mystery. Tell me, master, what does it mean when any person says, 'I wish you a merry Christmas' 'She said a heavenly minded man had told her that."

"Oh, she said that! What heavenly minded man? She is deceiving you, Sam-uel, and we will know the truth of it. Pay no heed to her words," Then Abner went away, and with mighty strides crossed the common, and having entered the house of Governor Leete de-

manded that Dorothy be summoned.

sweet faced maid leading a child with whom she was making merry, but when, ooking up, she met the awful glance with which Deacon Abner received her she faltered and stood waiting to hear him speak.



A BRAVE DEFENSE. "Lie not to me," said he, "for it will be ven worse for you.

she said gently. "Then you will not deny that you were at the store this morning?

"What had you under your cloak?"

'You will say, Why were you there?" "I cannot tell.

"You said these words to Samuel, 'I wish on a merry Christmas."

"Well, who bade you a merry Christmas this day?" "I cannot tell you."

v man? to say so mv '1, but I lie not." "Who?" This word was uttered in thun-

her tones were firm, and when he saw that she would not reply he went away, and at noon the magistrate had come. They came for Dorothy, and led her to

the building whence she came so cautiously in the morning. Here was the office as well as the store of Governor Leete, and here the magistrate held court. There were two or three who had been convicted of offenses, and among these condemned Ab ner placed the sweet faced maid.

The magistrate listened to the accusation that Abner made, that she was deceitful and had spoken lies, and when that was finished the magistrate said to her: "You have heard these accusations. Do you deny them?" "In that I have said or done evil know-

"Did you say a heavenly minded man had said to you, 'I wish you a merry Christmas?'"

"I said that. It is true; and he said. 'Re oice, for if we rejoice in the death of Christ for us we may rejoice in his birth." But she refused to tell who this man was or why she had slyly gone to the store that norning. The magistrate therefore, look ing sternly at her, said:

nagistrate. "Then, let me say here before you all that this maid shall not be whipped and pilloried. I will kill the man who lifts his hand against her," and the young man threw his arm around the girl and held her

Now the magistrate and deputies were amazed, for they had never before seen so strange a sight as this, so they consulted with each other what they should do, and they fixed upon a punishment for the young man. But when they looked up to nounce sentence on him they saw another sight which amazed them even more; for there stood before them a man of strange appearance. His beard was as white as the snow and long, like that of a prophet. His hair fell upon his shoulders.



"I speak the truth always or I speak not

"No; I will not deny that." "I cannot say."

"Yes. I said those words."

"Did you not tell Samuel it was a heaven-"Aye. That is the truth. I did not mean

der tone. "I must no. say." She spoke gently, but

ngly I do; otherwise it has been as he has

There is no doubt about it. You are guilty of a lie and deceit. You will be taken hence, and you will first receive ton lashes, and a ter that will be put into the pillory for one hour, that your punishment may warn others and convince yourself. The girl seemed not to hear these words She put out her hand as if for support, and when some one grasped it she seemed not to know it. It was Samuel who had taken her hand, and he stood by her side. His face was white. He had come into the room in time to hear the sentence.

"Let me take her place. If punishment is needed I will bare my back to the lash, and sit in the stocks for her," he said. "No, Samuelt" thus Dorothy spoke. "You cannot take her place," said the

in a firm embrace. "Do you wish to kill her! For if she is whipped it will kill her, and if

and I had placed one and upon the head of the mail, while the other was uplifted

When he spoke his voice was soft, but like one who has authority, and his manner vas solemn, and not like the manner of

any man whom they had ever seen.
"This child has done no evil," he began.
"If there be evil done I did it, for I taught her this morning that for all who love our Lord this is the day that commemorates his birth. To that blessed country where God reigns 1 soon, I trust, shall go, for I have kept the faith against such adversa-ries as you have never met. I warn you, ph, you proud magistrate, lift no arm of punishment against this child; for as truly as God reads all hearts he reads in hers as sinless a record as mortals can ever make. The judgment of God be upon you f you permit wrong to be done this child." He spoke as one inspired, and as he

stood with one hand uplifted he seemed like a prophet among them.
"Who are you?" the magistrate asked

with hesitating voice. "God's servant, and I say that this maid shall be blessed and her children shall rise and call her blessed, because she has this day served him."

When the magistrate and the deputies heard these words they spoke with one another for some moments, and when they lifted their eyes again the old man had gone as silently and mysteriously as he

For an hour the magistrate and the deputies consulted together. Then the con-stable was commanded to take the girl and execute the sentence, but as he approached her Samuel put her behind him and faced the officer. His look was terrible, and the constable knew the strength of his arm, so they stood silently facing one another. Suddenly a noise like the coming of horses was heard. The door opened and there entered some of the king's officers, and with them the governor of the colony, Mr.

"In his majesty's name, if you know where Edward Whalley and William Goffe, two of the judges who caused Charles the First to be beheaded, lie concealed I charge you to deliver them!" said an officer.

"The regicides!" said the magistrate, speaking in broken tones.

"Aye, the regicides. We have heard they are concealed here."

"Had one a venerable beard?" 'Aye. William Goffe.' "'Twas he, Cromwell's general," said the gistrate, as though speaking to himself.

"Twas he," said the deputies solemnly. Then Abner said to the officer, "One them was here an hour ago." "But is here no longer," said Governor Leete, speaking for the first time. "These men came to me many days ago and asked for shelter. As I had not then received the king's command to deliver them I permit-ted them to lie in the cellar beneath this room. For though I am loyal to the king I and my people honor Cromwell and his lieutenants. My maid Dorothy has for many days taken them food, and she and I alone knew of their presence. I charged her to tell no man. But when the king commands I obey, and I have brought the officers here. Yet I am glad to say that within the hour, being warned of your coming, but not by me, they have escaped You will see their tracks in the snow, and they are now rapidly sailing in a vessel on the Long Leland sound. What do you

here, Dorothyt" "They have sentenced me to the lash er, because I kept my promise to you. and 'twas this heavenly minded man who greeted me this morning with these words I wish you a merry Christmas.'

"To the lash?" 'Yes, master.

"And were about to administer it?" "But for Samuel they would already

have whipped me." "God be praised that this maid would have suffered the lash rather than betray either her word or these persecuted and righteous men, Goffe and Whalley. She shall henceforth be not my maid but my daughter," said the governor, embracing the girl. Then turning to the magistrate he said: "I will remit her sentence, and because it is indeed the Christmas day I will remit the sentences of all these prisoners. Let my house be opened this day Let all come and make merry. It shall be made a merry Christmas for all, as I used

to know it when I was a child in England. And it was as the governor had ordered on that day and after. And then through Dorothy Deal's suffering and peril there began in that colony the habit, as in other lands, of merry making and good cheer upon Christmas day.

The prophecy of the regicide Goffe was fulfilled. The children of Samuel and Dorothy became men of authority, and they did call her blessed. E. J. EDWARDS.

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